

Review of the year: 2012

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January 19th - Little Night Terrors at the Firebug

The LNT continued to be one of the popular bands whose gigs drew fans throughout of the year.

If someone were to ask me, who would be the next best thing in the rock and roll world to come out of Leicester, I would tell you straight away it would be these guys. Where to begin with these guys, energetic, passionate and full of enthusiasm. These guys are a class act. Young Lions - one of the singles that these guys released - if you have not heard it you are definitely missing out. The single has a great and catchy vibe and makes a bad day turn into a good day. Andy Lead vocalist for the band told me "The song was written about our experiences in Leicester and how all our friends, family experiences form into one lion and this being the main inspiration for the track." The band summed up 2012 as "Building a Rocket that is ready to go off, it's gonna go with a bang. " If you are a big fan of the indie scene, then I would recommend seeing these guys in 2013, if you're a fan of Primal Scream in my opinion, the band sound identical vocally to Primal Scream [DN]

26th - NX Level show at the Music Cafe

The NX Level provided a vibrant platform for artists of all kinds, to take part in a well organised competition. Lots of organisation went into the series of NX Level shows and the final show, in particular, was an impressive event.

February 3rd - Hells Addiction at the Musician

Hells Addiction provided a top of the form rocking experience with a strong line-up of good supporting bands. For the many rock fans who came to the Musician this was an evening to rock out in style.

13th - Arms of Atlas at the Shed

Arms of Atlas provided fans with several strong rock music experiences this year. Exhilarating music backed with impressive stage performances made Arms of Atlas's gigs nights to remember.

Arms of Atlas - read our feature article.

14th - Midnight Wire at Olive's Bar

Not all the most memorable gigs were held in big venues. Midnight Wire's performance at Clarendon Park's Olives Bar was memorable as more of a party than a show, but it was still an outstanding night of live music that gave the audience a memorable occasion.

Read our article on Midnight Wire.

#### 24th - NX Level Finals at the Music Cafe

The NX Level reached it final , at the Music Cafe, with a climax event that was exciting for its wide mixture of music genres and some impressive performances by singers , rappers and dancers. This was a really impressive show and one that stood out from all the others in the way it was organised. It attracted a huge crowd to the venue and delivered an exceptionally enjoyable experience.

#### 25th - Punk at the Soundhouse

The Sneaks, More Amour, Ivy Mike, Human Project and DTM. " DTM were incredible and very welcoming to the fans ... all the bands were on top form." [Ian Bedder]

Live music in Leicester offers a wide range of genres and punk has a dedicated and enthusiastic following and a group of much-loved bands devoted to keeping the tradition of punk alive.

#### 28th - Raptusound at the Musician

Raptusound featured in a line-up of electro-rock bands at the Musician that also featured Nottingham's Spotlight Kid. The line-up featured exciting bands and ear-pleasing music presented in a gig that roundly illustrated this style of music.

Read our feature article on Raptusound.

### March

#### 1st - Demons of Ruby Mae at the Donkey

Demons of Ruby Mae delivered an astoundingly good performance at the Donkey. The singing of Jonny Gavin combined with Adam Rowley's instrumentals made this an astonishingly good concert.

#### 2nd - Delis Mix at the Flapper, Birmingham

ArtsIn does not often go outside of Leicester to review bands but this was a special occasion when Delis Mix were on stage at the Flapper in Birmingham. Our local band stood out on the line-up and won them a place in the regional finals of Surface Unsigned.

#### 13th - Us Wolves and Midnight Wire at Olive's Bar

Some bands put on memorable gigs in the intimate settings of small bars and this one stood out for being one of those nights you just cannot forget. Us Wolves had an all too brief period, in which they graced the stages of Leicester, between their debut gig and their departure for foreign shores. At this particular night we were fortunate to hear two of the best popular-music bands in the city playing together in to a gathering of their most ardent fans.

Read our feature article on Us Wolves.

15th - Kenworthy at the Soundhouse

Blues rock has never been the same in Leicester since the Kenworthy trio appeared. They won the Original Bands Showcase in 2011 and the trio has delighted audiences this year at many shows and festivals, lead by the vocals and playing of Jack Kenworthy, an artist who is widely regarded as being one of the finest musicians of the current generation.

20th - Din Martin and Raptusound at the Firebug

German band Din Martin headlined this remarkable show at the Firebug with support from Raptusound. A large number of people attended this ArtsIn event and everyone agreed that it was a night of brilliant music making.

30th - The Queers at the Soundhouse

When important international bands come to play in Leicester, that is always a significant occasion. Where punk rock is concerned, importance readily attaches to the legendary Los Angeles band The Queers. With a strong supporting line-up and a packed house, this was an outstanding night in the year's rock calendar.

April

2nd - Neon Sarcastic at the Soundhouse

Leicester's live music appeals to fans of all ages and for the younger generation there are bands that are keeping alive the spirit of pop-punk. Neon Sarcastic is a band that has established itself over several years as being one of the most popular bands for this style of music.

3rd - Broken Mic at the Musician

Alternative music has not been forgotten this year, in fact it has very much alive and kicking. One of the foremost advocates for music that is different is the iconic Carlos Stein who founded the Alternative Music Collective.

26th - Anticapitalist roadshow at the Musician

A large crowd gathered at The Musician to support a strand of music that is not often heard in our venues - political folk songs. Singer, songwriter Grace Petrie was there to add her portfolio of songs to the mix.

27th - Iz Iggy at Lock42

Whilst most of our local bands perform their own music, there is a definite role for tribute acts. Iz Iggy shows how to do it with their tribute to Iggy Pop.

May

12th - Refuge and the Rethink Your Mind launch at the Crumblin' Cookie

Refuge is a remarkable band; with music that is a delight to the ears and a commitment to polished professionalism, this year has seen them deliver more than one album launch.

19th - Midnight Wire win the OBS at the finals held at the Musician

The Original Bands showcase is one of Leicester's enduring musical events and the finals show was a memorable gig, this year won by Midnight Wire.

June

1st to 3rd - Glastonbudget Festival

The Glastonbudget festival is one of the important stages not just for tribute acts but for many of the original bands from our local areas and further afield.

2nd - Resin, Dethonator and Fearless Vampire Killers at the Soundhouse

Resin gave a lot to live music in 2012, working steadily throughout the year to build up their fan base and to bring a steady flow of new songs to the ears of music lovers.

8th to 10th - Download Festival

It was wet, it was muddy, it was cold but nothing could deter the thousands who turned out to see some of the biggest bands in the business.

9th - Smokin' The Profit wins I Wanna be a Rockstar at The Shed

Music First Promotions has been one of the most consistently busy promoters in Leicester throughout the year. Their I Wanna Be A Rockstar shows culminated in Smokin' The Profit being crowned sinners, a result that resonated with a large numbers of people, not least many of the bands that also took part.

16th - Little Night Terrors and Selby Court at the O2

Bands have come and gone this year, new bands have formed and musicians have migrated from one band to another. The pedigree of the LNTs and of Selby Court show them to have thoroughbred musicians.

July

21st - Neon Sarcastic and Flip Like Wilson at the O2

Some felt that life at Leicester's O2 Academy had got a little tame and uninspiring but the venue made a come back this year with some well attended and enjoyable shows. This was one of them.

Flip Like Wilson has surged ahead this year, particular when they recruited their lead singer Jake Sterland and they put on a number of shows at which they shon as young band that has become increasingly popular with younger fans. The show was opened by The Accidents - a band that has established itself this year in the popular music end of the market.

25th - Raghu Dixit at the Donkey

Celebrated international bands have come to Leicester this

year, not because it could offer them arena-level stadium stages but more because it could provide the warmest of welcomes and the most fanatical devotions from genuine fans. It was a huge pleasure to see Indian superstars Ragu Dixit back in Leicester again.

25th - Agitator at the Crumblin' Cookie.

Stopping off in Leicester as part of their UK Tour, this US band from Philadelphia made a lasting impression on our local Hardcore fans. Check them out on Facebook.

August

2nd - ArtsIn held its Flash Gig at the Musician

A show organised within 36 hours, from start to doors open, featuring a line-up of top acts, including Leaving Party, the Delis Mix and Vengeance.

3rd to 4th - Cosby Big Love festival

The village of Cosby was the setting for one of the best small festivals of the year, with a host of star bands and singers and delightful family atmosphere.

10th to 12th - Strawberry Fields festival

August was the month for festivals - very weekend brought us another major music event and this was the turn of North West Leicestershire to draw in the ranks of music fans.

16th - Fringe Thursday

An increasingly important part of the Fringe - with its iconic super Thursday music tsunami - brings the whole of the city alive with bands and singers.

17th to 19th - Summer Sundae

Not just a local event, people come from far and wide, across the country, for three days of music in this nationally significant festival.

16th - Delis Mix at the O2 Birmingham for the regional finals of Surface Unsigned

Leicester bands have in the past done well at the national Surface Unsigned festival. Not so this year, although the Delis Mix did make the stage at the regional finals in Birmingham.

31 - Midnight Wire at the Y Theatre

The Y Theatre has put on an increasing number of live music shows this year and has been favoured by a number of local bands as their venue of choice for important shows. On stage with Midnight Wire was rising young band Leaving Party.

September 6th - OPM play at the Soundhouse

OPM, like the Queers, was one of several bands of international repute that came to our city's stages this year.

## 22nd - Modern Faces at the O2

Glasgow band Modern Faces played in Leicester a few times this year and their appearance at the Os Academy was one of them.

## 23rd - Luke Bingham at the O2

The world of Urban Music and hip-hop in Leicester is particularly fortunate in having the presence of major star Luke Bingham.

## October 11th October - Jamstar on Demon FM

One of my picks for 2012, would have to be this guy. One of only a few rappers to come out of the city, Jermaine is exceptional at what he does. All the lyrics he writes and raps about come from his personal experiences. Which I think is something that is lacked in today's chart music.

*Skys of Blue* is one of Jermaine's best works to date and a song I think will make him a huge success. I caught up with Jermaine in October as he did a live lounge session for Demon FM. There was something unique and different about his performance on the night. It was decided that Jermaine would perform with a backing band. The group then were known as The Chizzets, but have now formed a new group called The Rave. Performed that night was a cover of Wretch 32 song Don't Go, and of course Jermaine's Skys of blue track .

Whilst performing you could not help and get goose bumps, the blend between Rock and Rap, really stood out. It was like watching a soft Linkin Park Jay Z style of performance. I have seen many live performances at Demon studios but if I were to be honest I would say this was one of the best.

Speaking to Jermaine after his performance, he explained to me how the rap scene in Leicester could do with some improvements. He felt that in Leicester you don't get enough help to promote your material than you would, say in London or Birmingham. Keep a close eye on Jermaine many more exciting things to come from the young rapper in 2013. [DN]

## 20th - Oxjam

Leicester's Oxjam Takeover presented over 200 acts playing across almost 20 stages and was the biggest event of its kind in the UK.

## 26th - Launch night for White Giant at O Bar

One of the new bands to launch this year was White Giant, led by the voice of star songwriter Kieran Fowkes.

## 27th - Jonezy on stage at Curve at the Motown night Jonezy at the Cosby Big Love festival

Rapper Jonezy has been phenomenally busy this year popping up on venue and festival stages all over the place,

including the stage of CURVE, the city's flagship theatre.

November 3rd - Sonic Boom Six at the Soundhouse

Ska has always been popular in Leicester; when Sonic Boom headlined at a night at the Soundhouse, you could be sure it going to be a riot.

3rd November - Drongo at the Shed

One of the best young bands to emerge this year was Drongo - we could mention many more - but their performances in Leicester over the past twelve months have been widely regarded as exceptional.

3rd - Luke Bingham performs to over 19,000 people in Abbey Park

3rd - Rapper KY performs to a huge crowd at the Snibston Fireworks show; also on stage that night The Fores.

8th - The Shed launches young bands

The Saturday matinee shows at The Shed have provided a launch pad for many young bands, assuring that the stages of the future are well stocked with the next generation of artists. Performing in the same room that saw the birth of Kasabian, teenage musicians have been able to test their skills with audiences, sometimes at their very first public appearance. Several of them have gone on to become established names on the local scene.

10th - Tribal Riot at the Soundhouse

Leicester's music life thrives on a rich diet of sounds and electro group Tribal Riot have certainly fed those with a penchant for the club-meets rock diet with some fruity offerings.

18th - Park Bench Society at the Musician

It is sadly all too rare for a new band to rise from the womb of rock music in our area, and be a dead cert for label success. But, If you want an example of this Park Bench Society is the one to watch.

18th - The Simpletones perform at the Leicester Christmas Lights switch on

Five singing stars come together as the outstanding a-capella group The Simpletones. In the Town Hall Square they performed to a huge crowd that filled the whole square. A unique local act, they are massively popular.

22nd - Sham 69 at The Soundhouse

Legendary punk band Sham 69 with support from Ivy Mike, A Multitude of Sins, First Wave. "I think this has been a very good year for Leic punk" [Ian Bedder]

24th - Formal Warning at the O2

No round up of bands would be complete without reference to Formal Warning, a band that has made an indelible mark on the musical life of Leicester over more than seven years. This year saw the band go from strength to strength.

December 3rd - Sam Duckworth (Get Cape) at the Soundhouse

Leicester fans will be familiar with the oddly named national level band Get Cape, Wear Cape, Fly. when their lead singer and songwriter Sam Duckworth performed a solo set at the Soundhouse, he gave us a memorable music experience.

7th - Random Hand and Tribal Riot at the Soundhouse

Live music is not necessarily a sedate experience; thankfully, once in a while it is a riot, and Random Hand's fanatically mosh-fuelled following made sure of this when they played at the Soundhouse.

9th - Demons of Ruby Mae at the Concordia

The 400 seater auditorium of Hinckley's Concordia Theatre was chosen by Demons of Ruby Mae as the setting for the launch of their debut album.

15th - Dawson Smith at the Musician

Dawson Smith is one of the people whose work is very much at the heart of Leicester live music scene, whether as a musician and singer with his band(s) or as the person who is responsible for ensuring that the city is fed with its monthly diet of live music and other public events.

19th - Resin album launch at the Firebug

A large number of people turned out on a wet Wednesday night to hear a line-up of very good bands and the headline act that was Resin, introducing their latest album at the Firebug.

22nd - Maybeshewill at the Y Theatre

One of Leicester's top bands - After completing a European tour, the guys rounded the year off with a gig earlier on in December playing at their home city of Leicester [DN]

29th - Delis Mix at The Exchange Bar

In one of the last gigs of the year, Meri Everett with her band The Flying Kangaroo Alliance, brought Drongo, The 1221 Amor, the FKA and The Delis Mix to a resounding end of year gig that was a night of great music and one considerably good party. Meri did this and pulled it off despite a last minute change of venue but still a good crowd of people attended.

The original article was published with selected photos of the some of the band. This is a text-only version.